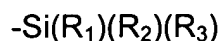


applied layer to the [said] coating by a condensation curing reaction involving the unreacted functional groups thereon.

2. (Amended) A process [as claimed in] according to claim 1, wherein the curable silicon-containing functional groups of (A) are pendant functional groups.

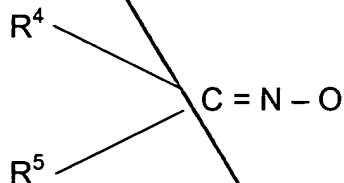
3. (Amended) A process [as claimed in] according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the silicon-containing functional groups are curable by virtue of one or more curable functional groups selected from the group consisting of aliphatic, aromatic and araliphatic ether and oxime groups, which groups may be substituted or unsubstituted.

4. (Amended) A process [as claimed in] according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the curable silicon-containing functional groups are groups of the formula



in which the groups represented by R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 may be the same or different and each may comprise an ether or ester group, preferably a group including a straight-chain or branched alkyl moiety having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and in which one or two of R_1 to R_3 may represent hydrogen or hydrocarbon group, preferably a straight-chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

5. (Amended) A process [as claimed in] according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the silicon-containing functional groups are curable by virtue of one or more oxime groups of the formula



in which R^4 and R^5 may be the same or different and each represents a straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated, aliphatic hydrocarbon radical, preferably having up to 7 carbon atoms, more especially up to 4 carbon atoms, especially a methyl or ethyl group; an aromatic group, for example, a phenyl group; or an araliphatic group, for

*Suppl
cancel*
(example, a benzyl group; or R⁴ and R⁵ together represent an alkylene group; or one of R⁴ and R⁵ represents hydrogen.

6. (Amended) A process [as claimed in] according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the curable silicon-containing functional groups are trimethoxy silyl or methyl dimethoxysilyl groups.

*2
cancel*
7. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 6], wherein the polymer (A) has no silanol or amine functionality.

8. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 7], wherein the polymer (A) carries no functional groups other than the curable silicon-containing functional groups conferring latent reactivity.

cancel
9. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 8], wherein at least a major proportion of the repeating units in the film-forming polymer (A) are other than siloxane repeating units.

cancel
10. (Amended) A process [as claimed in] according to claim 9, wherein the proportion of siloxane repeating units in the film-forming polymer (A) is not more than 25%, preferably not more than 10%, and more especially not more than 5%.

11. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 10], wherein the polymer (A) is substantially free from siloxane repeating units.

12. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 11], wherein the polymer (A) is derived from one or more monomers (A1) which carry curable silicon-containing functional groups and one or more monomers (A2) which do not carry such groups.

13. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 12], wherein the polymer (A) is derived from one or more ethylenically unsaturated monomers.

14. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 13], wherein the T_g of the polymer (A) is above ambient temperature.

15. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 14], wherein the polymer (A) has a number-average molecular weight in the range of from 3,000 to 10,000.

16. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 15], wherein the unreacted curable silicon-containing functional groups provide a period of latent reactivity of 48 hours or more.

17. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 16], wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) is curable by virtue of silanol or silicon-alkoxy groups.

18. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 16], wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) is curable by virtue of curable functional groups selected from the group consisting of aliphatic, aromatic and araliphatic ether, ester and oxime groups, trialkoxysilyl or hydrosilyl groups.

19. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 18], wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) is a linear polymer.

20. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 19], wherein the fouling-inhibiting material comprises a curable polysiloxane.

21. (Amended) A process [as claimed in] according to claim 20, wherein the polysiloxane (B) has the structure $R^3O(SiR^1R^2O)_nR^3$, in which R^1 and R^2 , which may be the same or different on each silicon atom and on different silicon atoms in the polymer, each represents an alkyl group; an alkenyl group; a cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl group; an aryl group; or a halogenated or cyano-substituted hydrocarbon group, with the proviso that one of R^1 and R^2 may represent hydrogen on some or all of the silicon atoms and that R^1 and R^2 may each represent hydrogen on some of the silicon atoms, OR^3 represents a curable functional group in which R^3 represents a monovalent radical; and n represents a degree of polymerisation.

22. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 19], wherein the fouling-inhibiting material comprises a curable fluorine-containing polymer.

23. (Amended) A process [as claimed in] according to claim 22, wherein the fluorine-containing polymer comprises a fluoro-acrylate polymer.

24. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 23], wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) has a number-average molecular weight in the range of from 5,000 to 85,000.

25. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 24], wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) is applied in admixture or conjunction with a catalyst for the condensation curing reaction.

26. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 25], wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) is applied in admixture or conjunction with a cross-linking agent for the condensation curing reaction.

27. (Amended) A process [as claimed in any one of] according to claim[s] 1 [to 26], wherein the substrate has a worn or damaged anti-fouling coating thereon.